



# HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) minutes:** January 19, 2010

**Present:** Chairman Stan Kumor, Mr. Jim Phelps, Mr. Tom McCullough, Mr. Terry Maybin, Ms. Debbie Hicks, Ms. Emily Anderson, Mr. Joseph McGuthand and Mr. Robert Delwiche.

**Guests:** Mr. Jack Keyes from Etowah Lions, Mr. Chuck McGrady from Henderson County Board of Commissioners, Mr. Charles Breckheimer from ECO, and Ms. Sarah Winters and Mr. Dwight A. Lively from Zeke's Garbage Service.

**Staff:** Mr. Will Sagar, Ms. Alexis Baker, Mr. Marcus Jones and Ms. Rebecca Coplin.

## **Welcome/Call to Order:**

Chairman Kumor called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

## **Approval of Minutes:**

*A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 16, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **Old Business:**

Introduction of new SWAC member, Debbie Hicks and new staff, Rebecca Coplin.

Mr. Sagar provided a power point presentation in regards to the future plans for the new scalehouse and site improvements to the Stoney Mountain Facility. The presentation included an aerial photo of the current facility and the land to be used surrounding. Also, Mr. Sagar presented a current set of drawings from McGill & Associates, the engineering firm hired for the project, detailing the plans for the site and the new scalehouse. Mr. Sagar expressed that the drawings were subject to change as further work is done in the development of a final set of plans.

After digging test pits, it has been found that there is some waste in areas planned for paving of new roads at the facility. Mr. Kumor asked how this would affect the plans for paving in this area. Mr. Sagar replied that he did not see the waste as a hindrance to paving as planned and that measures would have to be taken to compact the area accordingly by adding extra soil to the area.

Mr. Kumor asked for an update on the progress of building or finding a site for the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Mr. Sagar and Mr. Jones have met with a MRF equipment provider. Mr. Sagar explained that the county has a list of available properties to purchase/lease in which to operate the MRF. Ms.

Hicks asked when it is expected to have the MRF operational and Mr. Sagar replied that he is hopeful for this calendar year. Mr. Jones expressed that it would be an aggressive timeline for it to occur this year but possible. Mr. Kumor added that having the convenience center open on Earth Day of 2011 would be ideal.

Mr. Sagar informed the committee that the Earthday Celebration for 2010 will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Earthday is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> but the celebration will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at Blue Ridge Community College. ECO is planning a big celebration for this year due especially to the fact that this is the 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Ms. Debbie Hicks asked if electronic collections would be done. Ms. Alexis Baker said that we would be doing battery collection and possibly florescent tubes. Mr. Sagar pointed out that we currently collect electronics every Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. Ms. Baker also announced that the recycling truck will be present and that there is a graphics contest for the middle school students in which a winner will be selected and their graphic will be presented on the back of the truck.

Mr. Kumor asked how well advertised is the electronics recycling. Ms. Baker stated that it is posted on our website and that she has received several calls. Ms. Hicks said that she is referring her calls with regards to electronics to the facility at Stoney Mtn. Road.

#### **New Business:**

##### Fee Structure Concerns:

Mr. Sagar explains that the development of the budget that was adopted at the end of June included single stream which is currently being charged to the customer at \$26.00 a ton. The County is currently paying Curbside Management \$29.00 a ton and paying First Tee to transport it over; the \$26.00 is merely to aid in offsetting the cost. The hauling community has begun to get involved following the media attention to the bottle ban that began in October offering support until the MRF is available. Some of the haulers are fully participating and bringing single stream and some are bringing separated materials, meaning separation of containers and fibers. The separated materials have been added to the containers from the convenience center and then sent to Greenville to American Recycling at no charge rather than to Curbside Management where we pay. The volume of collection grew to the point that America Recycling could no longer handle the amount of bagged single stream and the bags then started to be sent to Curbside Management. The fee structure was set up so that any individual or hauler who brought in separated materials would not be charged. Mr. Terry Maybin wants to know why some haulers are not charged a fee and some are. Maybin Hauling is paying to dump their single stream at \$26.00 a ton and other haulers are not paying and dumping their single stream for free due to the confusion of bagged verses unbagged. Mr. Sagar stated that he would have to review the ordinance to see if it included bagged single stream free of charge. Also, Mr. Sagar requested that if anyone is seen dumping bagged single stream that has not paid, to please report it to him. Mr. Maybin then stated that he believed that most haulers were not paying at this time and simply driving up to the dump area and dumping free of charge. Mr. Chuck McGrady suggested to review the ordinance and stated that the fees are not intended to discriminate intentionally against anyone. He was not sure if a change in the budget mid-year is possible or not but he could check with the other board members.

##### Recycling Forum:

As a reminder to SWAC member, the Recycling forum is to be held on February 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m. at the City Operations Center. All members are highly encouraged to attend. The speakers will include Mr. Sagar, Mr. Kumor, Mr. McGrady, Ms. Andrea Keller of DEHNR, and Barbara Volk, Mayor of Hendersonville.

**Staff Reports:**

Ms. Coplin is new to staff and material reports are not available at present. Material reports will be emailed.

**Other:**

Discussion regarding recycling: How can the public be encouraged to recycle?

Mr. Maybin expressed that the public needs to be further educated as to what is recyclable and what is not. Suggestions of using public service announcements in the newspaper and on TV, were given.

Ms. Baker stated that she would like to speak with all the haulers in order to assure conformity. Ms. Baker also stated that information is available to the public and hauling community via the county website, newspaper articles, brochures, public speaking engagements and by contacting her. Mr. Sagar recommended haulers provide information regarding recycling pickup with their invoices. Mr. Jones and Mr. Sagar stated that enforcement of residential recycling is not possible at all times but educating the public and encouraging the haulers to quickly provide recycling pickup will hopefully encourage recycling. All permitted haulers are to incorporate recycling by 2011.

Mr. Maybin also expressed concern regarding the abuse of the bag for bag program. Mr. Maybin asked if there is a check in place to assure that individuals are not abusing the program. Mr. Jones and Mr. Sagar assured that the gate attendant and staff in the convenience center are checking as many vehicles as possible in order to maintain the goals of the program. Mr. McGrady encouraged anyone opposed to the program to contact the commissioners and express their concerns.

The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2010.

*Meeting Adjourned*

Minutes submitted by Ms. Rebecca Coplin

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